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the valuable minerals and gem materials of North America, numbering, in all, three hundred and fifty-two specimens.

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## BOTANY.<sup>1</sup>

AS REGARDS SOME BOTANICAL LATIN.—Scientific Latin is often said to be the laughing-stock of philologists. This may not concern botanists very much, as they do not require anything but scientific usefulness of their Latin. Nevertheless, if they are to use Latin, it is best that they use good Latin, especially as that is not a matter of very great difficulty. A principal source of inaccuracy in botanical Latin is the fact that a large number of names had their origin in the last century, or even earlier, when impure, medieval Latin was dominant. Then modern botanists, in attempting to give these names classical forms, often make them still worse. Besides, scientific men are not always as good philologists as they should be, so that many modern names are faulty.

Whether medieval Latin should be retained in Botany, on account of its antiquity and long use, or the purer forms should be substituted, is no part of the present consideration. But I may say in passing that the Latin studied and written for the most part to-day is classical Latin, and for this reason attempts to retain eighteenth century forms are liable to result in inaccuracy and absurdity.

Some of the principal characteristics of eighteenth century Latin are the use of *ch* for *c* and *y* for *i* in many words, in imitation of the Greek, and the use of the feminine nominative form for the masculine in adjectives like *campester* and *paluster*. On the continent *Pirus* has largely replaced *Pyrus* for some time, and this spelling has been followed to some extent in this country. English authors retain the eighteenth century spelling. But as is usually the case in changes of this kind, authors are inconsistent, changing some forms, and retaining others capriciously.

Of German authors, Luerksen writes *Pirus*, *Pirola*, *silvester*, etc. Frank (in *Leunis, Syn. der drei Naturreiche*) uses classical forms throughout. Drude (in *Encyklopaed. der Naturwissenschaft.*) writes *Pirus*, but *sylvestris*. Koch (*Dendrologie*) does the same. Sachs seems to prefer classical forms, but

<sup>1</sup> This department is edited by Professor Charles E. Bessey, Lincoln, Neb.

uses both. Winter uses eighteenth century forms as a rule, but his *lacrymans* is a hybrid.

Saccardo (Syl. Fung.) uses classical forms as a rule, but, probably from carelessness, is very inconsistent. He writes *Piri*, *Pirolæ*, *campester*, *paluster*, *silvester*. But *sylvatica* and *sylvana*! He has sometimes *lacrymans*, and sometimes *lacrimans*.

French authors usually prefer *Pirus*—but *sylvestris* and *sylvatica*. Vesque, however, has *Pyrus*.

Of American authors, Gray always consistently uses eighteenth century forms. Watson (Index and Botany of Cal.) writes *Pirus*; but *sylvestris* and *sylvatica*, and, curiously enough, the diminutive *Pyrola*. Coulter uses eighteenth century forms as a rule, but has the hybrid *sylvester*. Britton uses eighteenth century forms consistently.

It will be noticed that those who retain the eighteenth century Latin do so consistently, while those who attempt to substitute classical forms do it capriciously and without system. There seems no good reason for this, and it is probably largely due to carelessness. At any rate, if *Pyrus* is to be spelled with an *i*, so should *sylvaticus*, *sylvanus*, and *sylvestris*, and the latter should have the termination *ter*. If eighteenth century forms are to be retained we should write *lachrymans*; otherwise *lacrimans*. We cannot split the difference in this matter.—*Roscoe Pound*.

THE PRONUNCIATION OF SCIENTIFIC NAMES.—The following are the rules for the pronunciation of scientific names, adopted by the Botanical Seminary of the University of Nebraska.

I. In general, all names of the branches, classes, orders, and families of the vegetable kingdom, and their subdivisions, and the names of all genera and species shall be pronounced according to the "Roman Method."

II. Generic and specific names derived from un-Latinized personal names may, if difficult to pronounce as Latin, be pronounced according to the rules of the language from which they are derived. But even in these cases the Roman pronunciation is recommended if it can be used.

III. Latin words which have become Anglicized shall be pronounced as English.

IV. The following is a conspectus of the Roman Method :

## 1. VOWELS.

- A, long as in German; short as in *idea*.
- E, long as in German; short as in English (*and*).
- I, long as in German; short as in English (*it*).
- O, long as in English; short as in *obey*.
- U, long as in *boot*; short as *oo* in *foot*.
- Y, as I.

## 2. DIPHTHONGS.

- Ae (ai) as long i in English,
- Au as *ow* in *now*.
- Eu as *ew* in *few*.
- Oe (oi) as *oy* in English.
- Ou (ow) as long u (*Roman*).
- Ui as *we* in English.
- Ei as in *eight*.

## 3. CONSONANTS.

- C and G *always hard*.
- S *always sharp*; never like *z*.
- J like English *y*.
- U like English *w*.
- Bs like *ps*.
- Ch like *k*.
- Th *always* as in *thin*; never as in *then*.
- Others as in English.

## 4. QUANTITY AND ACCENT.

- (1) A vowel before another vowel or *h* is short.
- (2) A diphthong is long.
- (3) A syllable in which a vowel is followed by two consonants or a double consonant is long. Before *nf*, *ns*, *gn*, or *gm* the vowel itself is long.
- (4) A syllable in which a short vowel is followed by a mute with *l* or *r* is common.
- (5) Words of *two* syllables are always accented on the *first*.
- (6) Words of *more than two* are accented on the *penult* if it is *long*; if it is *short* or *common*, on the *antepenult*.

## 5. SYLLABLES, ETC.

- (1) Each vowel or diphthong constitutes a syllable.
- (2) Every syllable should be pronounced.
- (3) When a consonant is doubled or two come together, each should be pronounced.

THE "ROMAN PRONUNCIATION" IN HORTICULTURE.—Since the foregoing paper was received, the final volume of "Nicholson's Illustrated Dictionary of Gardening" has come to hand, and in it we notice with pleasure the article on the pronunciation of ordinal, generic, and specific names, by Percy W. Miles of the University of Dublin. After remarking upon the "chaotic state" of the pronunciation of the scientific names of plants, the writer observes that "the way in which many gardeners make havoc with the names of plants has been a frequent subject of satire with philologists and other writers." And again "the manner in which Latin has been, until lately, pronounced in this country is thoroughly inaccurate and unscientific, and so entirely insular that in speech it is often quite

unintelligible to foreigners, even to those who are good Latin scholars. As one of the chief advantages of the uniform Latin nomenclature of plants is that thus a sort of universal or international language is created, it is evident how much has been lost by our prejudiced adherence to a provincial mode of pronunciation."

After much consideration and consultation with several eminent botanists, the writer determined to follow the Roman system of pronunciation in his article. He proceeds to give the essentials as to accentuation, quantity, and the pronunciation of particular letters, practically as given in the rules set forth above.

"It will be as well to guard the reader against the supposition that there exists at present for botanical names any recognized standard of pronunciation from which he may imagine that this dictionary often presumes to depart. The fact is that there is no such established standard. In many cases the common text-books are utterly at variance, and the usage, not only of good gardeners, but of educated botanists is often hopelessly divergent."

In but one point of importance, (and that is in fact of but minor importance,) are the rules different from those printed above. Mr. Miles says that *in all cases* of words commemorative of the names of men, we should pronounce the word "as nearly as possible in the way in which the name to be commemorated was sounded." Thus he would have us say *Stokes-i-a*, not *Sto-ke-si-a*, *Men-zies-i-i*, not *Men-zi-es-i-i*. We are of the opinion that the rule of the Seminar, given above, is preferable, and will in the end lead to the best results.—  
*Charles E. Bessey.*

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## ZOOLOGY.

SOME CASES OF SOLID-HOOFED HOGS AND TWO-TOED HORSES.—In 1878 "soliped" pigs were reported from Texas. Dr. Coues observed that in the new breed the terminal phalanges of the toes were united, to form a single broad phalange; above this, however, the other two phalanges remained perfectly distinct. The hoof is perfectly solid, and on its sole there was a broad, angular elevation of horny substance, curiously like the frog of the horse's hoof. The breed was so firmly established that no tendency to revert to the original and normal form was then observable. It was further stated